

**Fire Marshal
Kerry Evans**

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Christmas Fire Safety

As the holiday season approaches, the most joyous time of the year can also be deadly. Christmas trees are involved in approximately 260 fires annually, according to the National Fire Protection Association, typically resulting in more than dozens of injuries and deaths. More than \$13.8 million in property loss and damage. Short-circuiting tree lights, poor choice and uses of extension cords and candles used for heating and decorations are the leading causes of residential fires. On average, one of every 21 reported fires that begin with a Christmas tree resulted in death.

Below are some helpful hints on choosing and maintaining the right decorations for your safe Christmas holiday.

Natural Christmas Trees

Before buying a tree, test for freshness by tapping the base of the tree on the ground or pulling lightly on a limb. If many needles fall off or if needles can be easily pulled off, the tree is too dry.

Keep your tree as fresh as possible by placing the stump of the tree in a bucket of water out of doors until you are ready to decorate. Before setting up the tree inside the house, trim two inches off the trunk diagonally so it can absorb water. Mount the tree securely in a large, wide based reservoir stand and add water each day to ensure the tree is well watered.

Choose a suitable location for your tree, ensuring that it is well away from heating sources and clear of all exits. Close all heat registers near the tree to prevent the tree from drying out.

Artificial Trees

Though fireproof, metal or aluminum trees are electrically conductive and should not be decorated with any electrical product. The metal can cause a short and a fire, or simply become "hot" or deliver a nasty shock. Aluminum trees can be illuminated by a colorful spotlight placed a safe distance from the tree, as set out in the manufacturer's instructions. If you use an artificial tree, be sure it is labeled, certified, or identified by the manufacturer as fire retardant.

Decorations and Presents

Christmas wrapping and decorations can be highly combustible, and should be kept away from heat sources such as candles, lamps, heaters, fireplaces and wood-burning stoves. Gift wrap and boxes should be collected as soon as gifts are opened, and discarded with the garbage or recycled where appropriate. Do not dispose of the wrappings in the fire place.



Indoor Lights and Electrical Decorations

- Use only those lights that have been UL tested and labeled “indoor” by an approved testing laboratory.
- Examine light strings, cords, plugs and receptacles before using. Discard any that have frayed cords, cracks in the lamp-holders, or loose connections.
- Do not overload electrical circuits or extension cords, and follow instructions on cord labels regarding connecting light strings to extension cords.
- Do not connect more strings of lights than the manufacture instructions allow.
- Never place furniture or other objects over electrical cords and in particular, never run electrical cords under a rug. With a rug covering a cord, any damage the cord may sustain can go unnoticed.
- Always unplug the light string before attempting to replace a bulb. Ensure the voltage and/or wattage marked on the light set is compatible with the replacement light. This is especially important with mini-lights as they come in different voltages.
- Avoid using timers on indoor lights. Tree lights could turn on when no one is at home and create a potential fire hazard. Always turn Christmas lights off before leaving home or going to sleep.



Outdoor Lighting

- Use only those lights that have been tested and labeled by an approved testing laboratory and are marked for outdoor use.
- Turn off the electricity to the supply outlet before working on outdoor wiring.
- Keep electrical connections off the ground and clear of metal objects. Use insulated tape or plastic hangers not metal nails or tacks, to hold strings of outdoor lights in place. Be careful not to tape the cords either over, under, or along metal eaves troughs.
- Waterproof all electrical connections. Run cords above ground, keeping them out of puddles and snow to avoid moisture buildup.
- Tape all plug connections with plastic electrical tape to make them as watertight as possible. To prevent moisture from entering bulb sockets, bulbs should face the ground.
- When using spotlights or floodlights to light your home or trees, ensure they are marked for outdoor use to withstand snow and rain. Indoor floodlights should never be used outdoors.
- Turn the lights off when you're not at home and when you retire for the night.
- For added electric shock protection, plug outdoor lights into circuit protected outlets.

Candles

Candles lend a special light to the holiday season of all faiths. Candle safety is important 365 days a year, but especially during the October-January holiday season. Here are some basic rules that everyone should commit to memory:

- Young children should be taught to stay away from lit candles. Keep lit candles out of reach of children and pets. Candle lighting is not an appropriate activity for small children, so keep all matches and lighters out of the sight and reach of children. Older children can learn to use them under adult supervision.
- Burn candles away from drafts, other heat sources, and all flammable objects or materials. In other words, *never* use candles near windows or exits. Don't place them on Christmas trees, real or artificial. Keep burning candles away from curtains, wrapping paper, combustible decorations and displays, flammable liquids, and aerosol sprays, such as hair spray, which can **explode**. Never allow a candle flame to touch any glass surface. Don't burn candles more than four hours at a time.
- Unattended candles are an invitation to disaster, so don't forget to snuff out candles before leaving the room or going to bed. Blowing candles out doesn't do the trick: Extinguish them by wetting the wick.



- Candles other than jar candles must be used in an appropriate non-tipping, non-flammable holder. Make sure that candle containers and holders are made from tempered glass or have a proper glaze. All candles should be placed on a safe, heat-resistant dry surface. If possible, place glass chimneys or shades over them. For Christmas luminaries, use 15-hour votive candles in holders, placed in paper bags filled with at least 2 inches of sand. The candle must be of a size that will allow adequate space between the candle and bag so as not to ignite the bag.
- Remove labels and tags from candles before burning.
- Keep wicks trimmed to ¼ inch at all times. This inhibits smoking and carbon build-up at the tip of the wicks and provides a cleaner burn.
- Sometimes a layer of liquid wax forms that causes the wick to fall to the side. To maintain an even burn, keep the wick centered. This will also protect the candle holder, since a flame that's too close for too long may crack the holder.
- Keep the wax pool free of foreign objects such as wick trimmings and matches. They will interfere with proper burning and are flammable.
- Extinguish taper or pillar candles when they get within 2 inches of their holders. Discontinue use of containers candle when ½" of wax remains.
- Matches and lighters are tools not toys! Store them up high where children can't reach them.

If we follow these simple guidelines everyone should have a safe Christmas season.

Wellness Program Transformation

Congratulation to Firefighter Trent Stanley, he was the winner of the wellness program transformation for the first quarter.

Trent lost 12 pounds, 2.25 inches off of his waist and gained 1/8 of an inch in his chest. Trent turned down junk food at the station on various occasions and has really been diligent in his workout routines. Keep up the good work Trent!



Winner!

Call Totals for the Month of November...

Station 81

Fire: 27
Medical: 70
Total: 97

Station 82

Fire: 32
Medical: 45
Total: 77

Lehi's Hunks



Firefighter Clark Clifford

This Thanksgiving, A Shifters from Lehi and surrounding cities had the opportunity to provide excellent customer service to one of our residence's. Smoke was visible on our arrival from the roof of a 2 story, large residential home. Engine and Tower companies from Lehi found a light haze in an upstairs office. Tower 82 opened the walls of the room to an insulated space containing the duct of the wood burning stove. Fire was visible as the walls were opened and quickly extinguished by Engine 81. Other units began arriving to assist in opening up walls and ceilings in adjacent rooms looking for fire extension.

Tarps for salvage were called for and placed over bookshelves and furniture. Artwork and rugs were removed and placed in a safe location. Vehicles were moved out to the driveway once the garage doors were opened. Runners were placed under hose couplings to protect the hardwood floors beneath.

We visited the home the next day; the homeowner was glad to see us and invited us in to admire our work. The homeowner mentioned several times during our visit what an absolutely amazing job we did protecting her home. She began taking the tarps off of the bookcases and cabinets to show us all the sentimental and irreplaceable objects she had collected over the years. She got more and more excited describing all the items we had salvaged. Sometimes we don't realize how our small actions whether good or bad can have a lasting impression on our customers.

My Aunt Nancy and Uncle Herb told me about a personal interaction they had with the fire department one summer in California. While packing for a vacation, their upstairs fire alarm started beeping. Figuring that the hallway smoke detector needed a fresh battery, my uncle attempted to retrieve the detector from the ceiling. What he didn't realize was that the detector he was trying to take down was hardwired to an alarm company and the detector didn't have a battery. The detector was now inoperable from it being disconnected from the system.

The Engine Company located about a minute from their house had been notified and arrived. Nancy was waiting at the door and invited them in to help reset the system. A "crustier" firefighter sized up the situation and said "Why in the world would you disconnect your hardwired detector?" My uncle explained his mistake. The beeping had actually come from a nearby bedroom detector and the crew reset it with a new battery. My uncle got the impression the firefighters were frustrated with the situation and based on their body language and comments they would rather be back at the station. They told my aunt and uncle to contact the alarm company to repair the monitored detector.

After the crew left the house something dawned on my aunt. She said to Herb "Do you remember those firefighters?"

About 6 months prior, all their grandkids were visiting during the Christmas break; they made treats and went out caroling in the neighborhood. The Fire Station, which I mentioned was about a minute from their house, got a knock and they were invited in by the friendly firefighters. They said the firefighters were awesome, showing them all the apparatus and giving the kids hats and stickers. They left the crew a plate of my uncle's famous peanut and chocolate cookies called Herb's Hunks.

Nancy said that was the same crew we brought treats to. She said in a joking manner "We gave them Herb's Hunks and they treated us like that in our home!" This is a good reminder on how our small actions, whether good or bad, can leave a lasting impression on our costumers-the citizens.

I'm grateful to be part of a friendly and professional fire department that takes care of its customers whether in their home or ours.

Father Mychal Judge, Chaplain to the FDNY, said on September 10, 2001

"You do what God has called you to do. You get on that rig, you go out and do the job. No matter how big the call, no matter how small, you have no idea of what God is calling you to, but God needs you. God needs us to keep supporting each other, to be kind to each other, to love each other... We love this job, we all do. What a blessing it is! It's a difficult, difficult job, but God calls you to do it, and indeed, He gives you a love for it so that a difficult job will be well done."

Have a safe holiday and pass the Herb's Hunks!

Firefighter of the Year

Utah Valley Exchange Club Honors Lehi Officer and Firefighter

November 9, 2013 CATHY ALLRED - DAILY HERALD

Two Lehi employees, a firefighter and a police officer, received awards for exemplary service at the annual Utah Valley Exchange Club Awards event earlier this week.

The Utah Valley Exchange Club president Kena Matthews recognized Corporal Bart Smith and Firefighter Shad Hatfield at the award breakfast in Orem.

"It is unusual to both nominations be from the same city," Matthews said.

"Lehi always has great nominations, great people, and this year they were both winners," she said.

The Exchange is one of the oldest American clubs and its Utah Valley Chapter has 22 members. Their award program is designed to honor those who serve in public safety in the community and serves as a magnifying glass for the public to see a clearer view of what firefighters and law enforcement officers do.

"Ideally we'd like more nominations throughout the county, but every year we get wonderful nominations and every year it is a difficult decision," Matthews said.

A club centered on service, Exchange Club members strive to make their communities better places to live through programs of service in Americanism, community service, youth projects, and its national project, the Prevention of Child Abuse. To date, the National Exchange Club's efforts have helped more than 1.6 million children and 656,000 families eliminate child abuse from their daily lives.

"It's great that the Exchange Club works to prevent child abuse -- that is a personal passion of mine," said Smith, Police Officer of the Year for 2013.

Those who nominated Smith at the Lehi Police Station said he goes above and beyond his call as an investigator for department. He has focused his time as an investigator protecting children through several different approaches and has used a variety of prevention programs, online stings and sex offender checks. Smith also has incorporated several different child-related programs within the Lehi Police Department and has been instrumental in making them successful.

Currently, he oversees the NOVA program, participates in the Utah County Sex Crimes Task Force and Child Abduction Response Team, the RAD Kids Program and the Sex Offender Notification and Registry. Added to that list, he additionally maintains a full investigations case load and teaches NOVA to Lehi elementary students.

Both Smith and Hatfield were surprised at the honor. Hatfield said Captain Ernie Curwen told him of his nomination in an unusual way.

"He was having a good time and thought I should have even a better time and let me know at his daughter's wedding," Hatfield said. "I wasn't quite expecting that going to his daughter's wedding and having him let me know that I was being honored by the Exchange Club as Firefighter of the Year."



Hatfield is cross-trained as a firefighter and paramedic, and according to his nomination he has exhibited outstanding leadership, mentoring and customer service. He is always willing to go the extra mile with his patients, he takes time to teach new medics about how to properly treat patients, and he is humble and quiet in the performance of his duties.

Described as a team player, he seeks to build cooperation with his co-workers and the community. Hatfield has served on a number of committees outside the scope of his normal work and he thrives in the stressful environment of fire fighting.

"I think that the reason why they go to work is number one to provide for their families but they are also providing for Lehi city. We have such a great fire department and police department, it's all in the service of our family. Each and every one of us is Lehi family. You know how they say if you get a divorce you are still cousins? That's Lehi right there," Lehi Mayor Bert Wilson, said.

Wilson is known for his deadpan country jokes and after the initial shock of his statement, the breakfast guests began loudly chuckling.

On a more serious note he added, "We totally believe we are family and we are just grateful to have these firefighters and police officers in our city who care so much and there is not a day go by that you can't find one of them somewhere doing some good for somebody, going beyond the call of duty doing things, just little things -- like fixing a flat tire. "

The National Exchange Club is an all-volunteer, national service organization for men and women who want to serve their community, develop leadership skills, and enjoy new friendships. Made up of nearly 800 clubs and more than 25,000 members throughout the United States and Puerto Rico. To date, The National Exchange Club's efforts have helped more than 10,000 families and 140,000 children break the cycle of abuse.

December Birthdays

- * Jake Beck 12/3
- * Ricky Casper 12/11
- * Randy Harding 12/14
- * Lincoln Paxman 12/20
- * John Hammond 12/23
- * Trent Stanley 12/29



SAVE THE DATE!

Holiday Formal Banquet

(For all Lehi Fire Employees)


January 18, 2014



**Thanksgiving Point Great Room
(3300 Clubhouse Drive, Lehi)**

**Social Hour will begin at 5pm.
Dinner and program will begin at 6pm
Look for the invitation in the mail.**

December 2013

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2	3	4	5	6
					7 Bountiful Baskets Food Co-op - station 81 & 82
8	9 Payroll	10	11	12 Officers Meeting Station 82 8:00am	13
					14 Bountiful Baskets Food Co-op - station 81 & 82
15	16 Medical Skills Lab 8am @ ST 82	17	18 Medical Skills Lab 8am @ ST 82	19	20 Medical Skills Lab 8am @ ST 82
					21 Bountiful Baskets Food Co-op - station 81 & 82
22	23 Payroll	24 Christmas Eve	25  Christmas Day City Office's Closed	26	27
					28 Bountiful Baskets Food Co-op - station 81 & 82
29	30	31 New Year's Eve 